

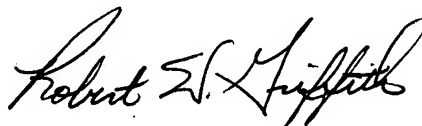
REMARKS

The present application was filed on September 29, 2003 with claims 1-19. In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner required restriction of claims 1-19 of the above-referenced application to one of the following groups of claims: claims 1-3, 8, 9, 13, 14 and 17 (Group I); claims 4-7, 10-12, 15, 16 and 18 (Group II); and claim 19 (Group III).

Applicant respectfully traverses the restriction requirement. The Examiner argues that Groups I-III are often separately characterized and published in literature and would add undue search burden if they were all examined together. Applicant respectfully disagrees because each group defined by the Examiner is directed to systems for screening a predetermined nucleotide sequence to efficiently determine whether or not the predetermined nucleotide sequence constitutes a portion of another nucleotide sequence. Differences such as the use of a partial short chain sequence from target nucleotide sequence data instead of target nucleotide sequence data itself, and to a greater extent, the use of a server for sending and receiving data utilizing a network, would not add any undue search burden in examination. Accordingly, Applicant asserts that the restriction requirement is improper and should be withdrawn, in that there would be no undue burden in prosecuting claims 1-19 together.

In the event the outstanding restriction requirement is not withdrawn, Applicants hereby elect with traverse the claims of Group I, i.e., claims 1-3, 8, 9, 13, 14 and 17, for prosecution on the merits.

Respectfully submitted,



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